

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated July 6, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 6, 2009. Claims 1-15 remain pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Statement of Substance of Interview

On August 24, 2009, a telephonic interview was held between Walter C. Grollitsch and the Examiner. The parties discussed the cited reference Wolff (U.S. 4,141,821). Claim 1 was also discussed.

An agreement was reached during the interview. The arguments made herein are believed to be consistent with the agreement reached during the interview. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wolff. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 1 includes the limitation of a plurality of discrete aperture arrays defined in a surface of a panel member and a reinforcing arrangement arranged beneath each aperture array. Wolff fails to disclose these limitations. Wolff merely discloses a plurality of screening elements 4 arranged on a grid 1, wherein each screening element 4 includes several screening zones 6 (see Wolff, col. 3, lines 20-35). The screening zones 6 are bordered by stays 7 (see Wolff, Figures 2 and 3). As discussed during the interview, the stays 7 merely surround (or border) the screening zones 6 and the stays 7 are coplanar with the screening zones 6 which is clearly different from a reinforcing arrangement arranged beneath each aperture array as recited in claims.

As the foregoing illustrates, Wolff fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. This failure precludes Wolff from anticipating claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the 102(b) rejection of claim 1 be removed and allowance of the

same. Additionally, the claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

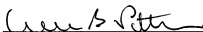
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff in view of Eeles (WO 01/41944). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 9-14 depend from claim 1. As set forth above, Wolff fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 1. Further, Eeles fails to cure the deficiencies of Wolff. As such, the combination of Wolff and Eeles fails to render claims 9-14 obvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the 103(a) rejection of claims 9-14 be removed and allowance of the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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